

Erhard Is Warned by Strauss

Acquisition of Nuclear Weapons Proclaimed as Birthright

By Anatole Shub

Washington Post Foreign Service

BONN, Nov. 30.—Franz-Josef

Strauss today publicly warned Chancellor Erhard not to "sell a birthright of German sovereignty" by renouncing the right to acquire nuclear weapons.

Toward the end of a powerful though rambling two-hour speech in the Bundestag, Strauss dramatically pointed his finger at Erhard—sitting in the government bench—and urged him to reject "any pressure from international opinion" for an East-West treaty on the nonproliferation of atomic weapons.

Strauss told Erhard specifically that, in the Chancellor's coming talks with President Johnson (scheduled for Dec. 19-20), he should be "very careful, very reserved" toward a nonproliferation accord, which he called a "purely physical attempt at solution of a political problem."

He warned the Erhard government to give "no assent beforehand" to such an accord

before all the other problems of Allied defense have been "fully studied." Only when a

federal European union was created, with its own nuclear defense potential, should West Germany give up the right to acquire national nuclear power, Strauss said. Until then, he said, Germany had a right to demand "equality with the other European members of the North Atlantic Alliance."

Criticizes Proposals

Strauss, who was West German Defense Minister until 1963 and remains chairman of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), brushed aside proposals by the Social Democratic opposition (as well as

by the Pentagon) for a greater German role in nuclear planning, targeting, coordination and consultation without actual participation in new atomic-weapons systems.

Strauss said all such proposals finally come up against the same barrier, namely, that "those who actually possess nuclear weapons will always

be free to decide on their use in time of emergency."

Strauss was greeted at the end of his speech with prolonged applause, far greater than that received by Erhard or parliamentary whip Rainer Barzel in yesterday's opening sessions of the Bundestag's general debate.

When Strauss left the podium, a beaming Erhard leaned over from the government bench and shook his hand. This appeared to be a direct result of the fact that Strauss today four times praised Erhard for his services to West German economic reconstruction after World War II.

Erhard did not react when Strauss delivered his warning on the nuclear issues. The 90-year-old former Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, applauded. Foreign Minister Gerhard Schröder was not present.

Support Voiced

In a reply to Strauss, Social Democratic leader Helmut Schmidt reiterated his support

of a nonproliferation accord and rejected the Erhard government's declaration that German nonpossession of nuclear weapons is an "injustice."

At the same time, Schmidt said, "it is not really our business to get involved in proposing reforms or changes in the North Atlantic Treaty organization. The present treaty and the present organization suit us fine."

With one day remaining in the debate—which has centered on fiscal as well as defense problems—it appeared that Erhard and Schröder can count on only minority support here for any strong demands for an allied or multilateral nuclear force. In addition to the Social Democrats, the Free Democrats (who are partners in the government coalition) have now backed away from the idea. Christian Democrats loyal to Adenauer have opposed such plans for more than a year.

On a nonproliferation accord, it appeared — despite

Lawmakers Protest Restaurant Prices

Reuters

BONN, Nov 30 — West Germany's parliamentary opposition today backed Chancellor Erhard's austerity pleas—by skipping lunch in the Parliament restaurant.

More than 100 Social Democratic Deputies demonstrated against the restaurant's high prices and small portions by sitting down to sandwiches packed by their wives.

The Deputy Speaker of the Bundestag, Carlo Schmidt, was greeted by shouts of "Blackleg" when he sat down for a plate of sausages and sauerkraut.

Strauss's reception today — that a clear parliamentary majority is prepared to follow an American lead on the subject. West Germany did renounce (ten years ago) the production of nuclear weapons on her own territory, but never their acquisition elsewhere.



United Press International

'NIECH ZYJE' — American Ambassador John A. Gronouski, in light coat, is shown during a tumultuous reception on his arrival in Warsaw yesterday to take up his

new duties. The former Postmaster General, grandson of Polish immigrants, was greeted with cries of "Niech Zyje"—"Long may you live."